

Ideas for spiritual reflection at reflective areas and at home: 'Day 6'

On these pages are ideas for spiritual reflection at reflective areas within classrooms (or other areas of the school site) as well as at home. The ideas within the former draw explicitly upon the research of Joyce Bellous and David Csinos (see pages 6-7 of the Heart for the Earth overview); feel free to adapt or use them as a springboard to think of other ideas for spiritual reflection that the school community will value. The latter provides some newsletter text and ideas you may wish to share with parents/carers to stimulate reflection and practical demonstrations of having a 'Heart for the Earth' at home. These activities will help pupils – and their families – to further reflect upon loving and walking lightly upon the planet we share. In so doing, pupils can become climate champions in a range of contexts^[1]:



[1] O'Dwyer, A. 'Exploring climate change education outside the classroom', In Dolan, A.M. *Teaching Climate Change in Primary Schools: An Interdisciplinary Approach* (London: Routledge, 2022), p.141

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Word

Show the following question and sentence starters to stimulate pupil thinking.

How can we help animals to thrive?

I wonder...

I wish...

I will...

If you'd like to, offer your thoughts to God.



Emotion

Make the heart templates on the following page available for pupils. Pupils can draw an animal they have particularly on their heart.

Invite pupils to ponder: why have you drawn this animal?

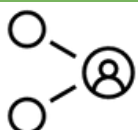
If pupils would like to, they could offer a prayer to God for this and other animals.



Symbol

Print and place the Heart for the Earth 'examen'/Plug in and Play reflective activity. This can be found in the class-based worship resources.

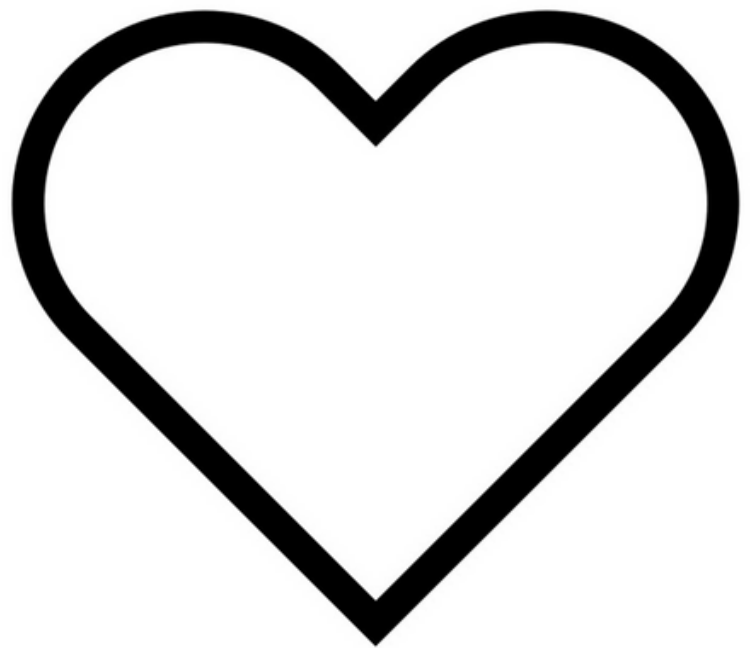
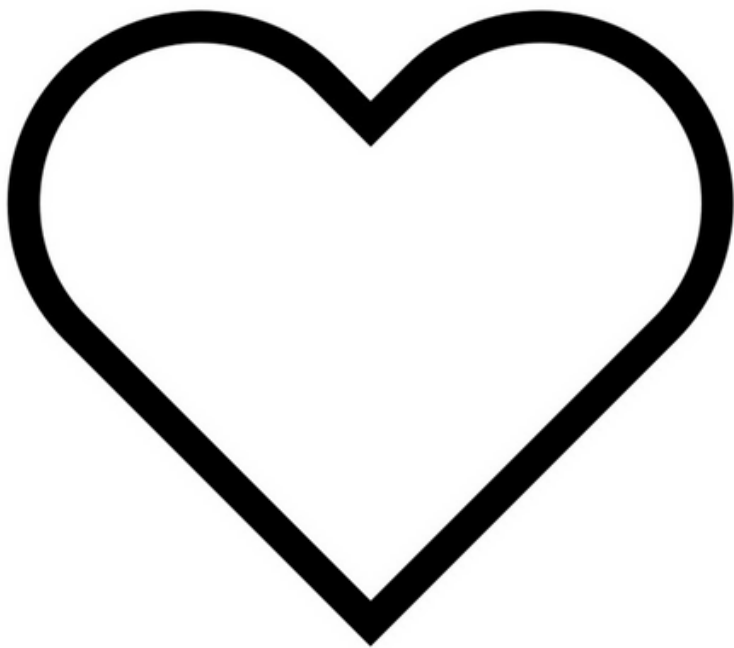
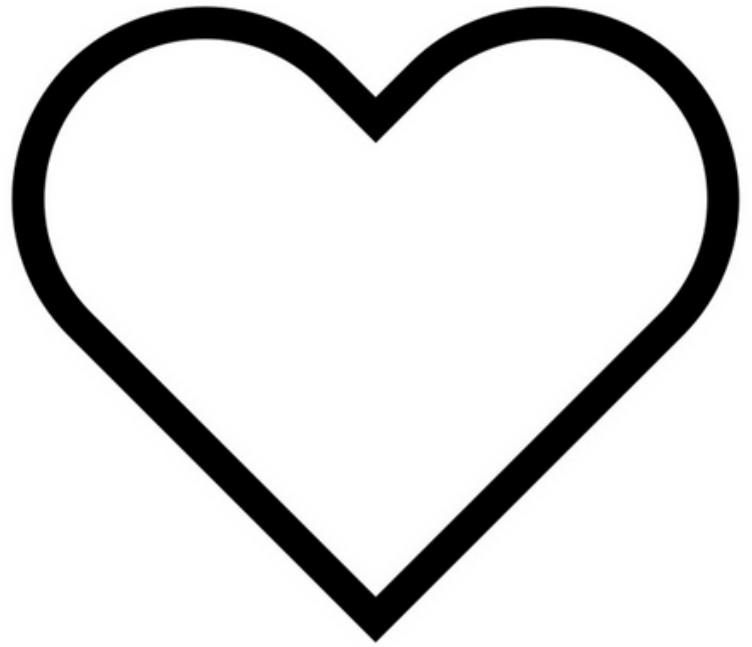
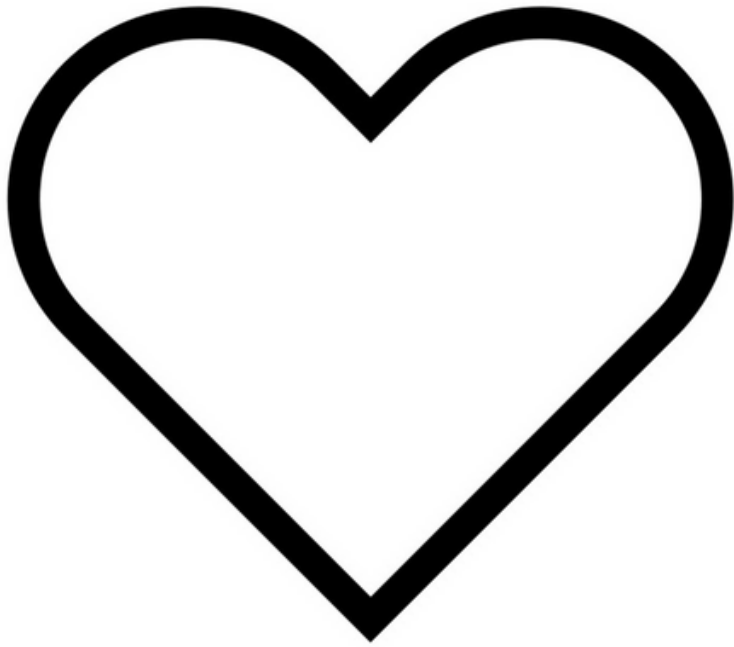
Pupils could undertake this individually, or an adult could facilitate a time for reflection.



Action

'All living things exist as part of a community of creation'

If this is true, how should we live today?



Heart for the Earth at Home:

newsletter text and practical ideas: Day 6

In our collective worship and across school life, we are exploring what it means to have a 'Heart for the Earth'. We have been thinking about why it is important to look after the planet we share, with a recent focus on animals. We are reflecting on how we might delight in these wonderful creatures and make wise choices to ensure they flourish.

If you'd like to, below are some ideas to further encourage a heart for the Earth on this theme.



- Spend time outside in nature looking for and identifying animals. What can you see? What can you hear? Who can spot the...largest creature? A creature with the most legs? etc.
- Play 20 questions. One person thinks of an animal and others have twenty questions to try and guess the animal. Be mindful, the only responses that can be given are 'yes', 'no' or 'unsure'!
- Why not get artistic and re-present some animals? Draw, paint, sculpt (using playdough) and/or photograph animals in your local area and/or further afield.
- If you are able, watch some age-appropriate documentaries on animals.

In collective worship, we will consider the following questions. Why not discuss these at home?

- What are some of your favourite animals? What delights you about these creatures?
- What do you think are the biggest risks animals are facing at the moment? Is climate change one of them?



- Many people hold the view that there is a hierarchy of life, where some species are viewed as better or more important than others. Humans are more important than apes; apes more than dogs; birds over insects etc. Is this view ok? In what ways might this be detrimental to the diversity of species and flourishing of the planet?
- In your view, how can we show a heart for the Earth through caring and championing for animals? What would make the biggest difference?